

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claims, and listings of claims, in the application.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A warm molding raw material powder in powder metallurgy, comprising a ~~composition of~~ lubricant which consists of a hydroxy fatty acid salt having an average particle diameter of from 5 μm to 100 μm is in a range of from 0.3 wt% to 2 wt%.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A warm molding raw material powder in powder metallurgy, comprising a ~~composition of~~ lubricant which consists of a hydroxy fatty acid salt having an average particle diameter of from 5 μm to 100 μm is in a range of from 0.5 wt% to 2 wt%.

Claim 3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The warm molding raw material powder according to Claim 1, wherein the hydroxy fatty acid salt is a hydroxy stearic acid salt.

Claim 5 (Original): The warm molding raw material powder according to Claim 4, wherein the hydroxy stearic acid salt is hydroxy lithium stearate.

Claim 6 (Original): The warm molding raw material powder according to Claim 5, wherein the hydroxy lithium stearate is 12-hydroxy lithium stearate.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A warm molding method ~~performed~~ comprising the step of using the warm molding raw material powder according to Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The warm molding method according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of:

~~wherein, in powder metallurgy, after a hydroxy fatty acid salt having an average particle diameter of 50 μ m or less is attached on a mold, further comprising the step of performing warm molding in the mold~~

attaching a powder of hydroxy fatty acid salt having an average particle diameter of 50 μ m or less on a forming surface of the mold before the warm molding raw material powder is filled in the mold.

Claim 9 (Original): The warm molding method according to Claim 8, wherein the hydroxy fatty acid salt is a hydroxy fatty acid lithium.

Claim 10 (Original): The warm molding method according to Claim 9, wherein the hydroxy fatty acid lithium is hydroxy lithium stearate.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The warm molding ~~raw material powder~~ method according to Claim 10, wherein the hydroxy lithium stearate is 12-hydroxy lithium stearate.